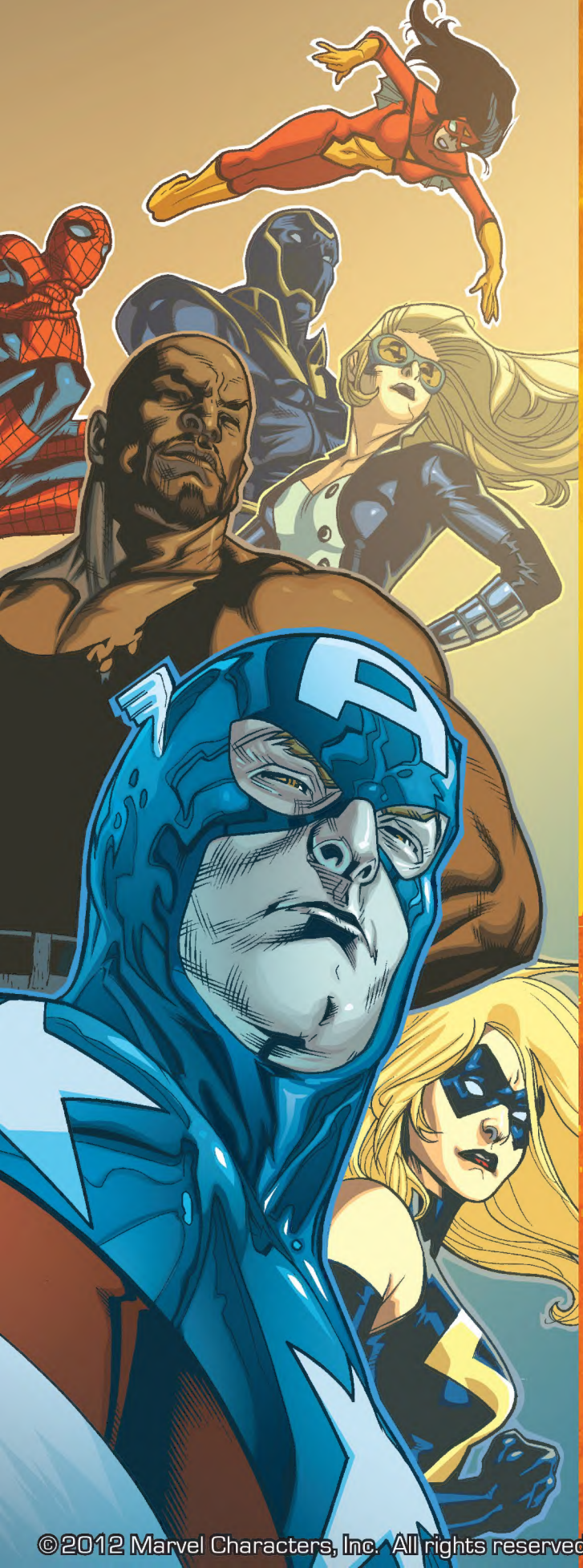

NEW AVENGERS®

SIEGE™

BENDIS • MCKONE • MCCAIG

MARVEL

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

The Avengers are on the run! Until they can be sure who's on their side, Spider-Man, Captain America, Luke Cage, Ronin, Mockingbird, Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively they try to keep the values of the Avengers alive even though they're living on the wrong side of the law.

Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling and director of H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers.

Now, as the Iron Patriot, Norman has made bold moves across the United States to remake the country's status quo into his image of justice and fairness--an image that does not include mutant, monster or vigilante.

The mighty Thor, god of thunder, has recently returned to Earth and brought the golden city of Asgard and all the gods who call it home with him. Asgard floats just feet above the fields of Broxton, Oklahoma.

With the coaxing of Thor's brother Loki, Norman aims his sights on Asgard. After manufacturing an incident that gave him an excuse to invade, Norman does, in full force, backed by his Dark Avengers, the corrupted criminal Initiative teams and conventional H.A.M.M.E.R. forces--and in front of the invited world media. His first act, ganging up on Thor on live television, only serves to enrage the heroes aligning against Norman, including the newly resurrected Captain America, Steve Rogers.

Parker Robbins, The Hood, the self-appointed kingpin of super-criminals and business partner to Norman Osborn, recently lost his powers but was granted a second chance by Loki. Now, empowered by the Asgardian Norn Stones, The Hood and his horde of villains have entered the Siege…

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TWO DAYS AGO.
AVENGERS TOWER.

NORMAN.
PARKER.
YOU CALLED?
HMM? YES.
PARKER, RIGHT.

WOW, DOOM DID A NUMBER ON *THIS* PLACE.
WE GOT A COUPLE OF LICKS IN.
UH-HUH.
LET ME SEE THEM.

EXCUSE ME?

THE SOURCE OF YOUR NEW POWERS.
LET ME SEE.

WHY?

I WANT TO SEE HOW LOKI DOES BUSINESS.

HMM.
ALL RIGHT.
SURE.

LOKI CALLS THEM THE NORN STONES.
OH, MY.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
ASGARDIAN?
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD.
MAY I?
YOU CAN TRY.
WHY CAN'T I LIFT THEM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S NOT ME.
IT'S NOT?
IT'S THE STONES.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
LOKI SAID THE STONES PICK THEIR MASTER.
AND THEY PICKED YOU.
SO FAR.
HOW CONVENIENT.
SO FAR.
AND WHAT DO THEY DO?
ANYTHING I WANT.
ANYTHING?
SO FAR.
WELL THEN, YOU'RE MY NEW BEST FRIEND. AGAIN.

I THOUGHT YOU'D THINK THAT.
I'M SURE.
AND, I'D BET, SO DID LOKI.
WE'RE GOING TO INVADE ASGARD.
I KNOW.
IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN SOON.
WHY?
CAN I COUNT ON YOU?
WELL, A: OBVIOUSLY, I OWE LOKI HUGE. HE WANTS THIS TO HAPPEN, I GOTTA DO IT.
BUT, B: I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU BACKED ME UP WHEN I WAS DOWN AND MY GANG WENT ROGUE.
YOU COULD HAVE TURNED THEM AGAINST ME. YOU COULD HAVE MADE A PLAY.
WE HAD A DEAL.
EXACTLY.
MY POINT.
I KNOW WHEN YOU FIRST INVITED ME TO THE TABLE IT WAS BECAUSE WILSON FISK WAS OUT OF THE PICTURE.
NO. NO.
WILSON FISK IS A TRUE CRIMINAL.
DISHONEST. THERE'S NO DOING ANY KIND OF BUSINESS WITH HIM.
WELL, EITHER WAY, PEOPLE SAY A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT YOU, BUT YOU ARE LOYAL.
I AM.
SO, I'M IN.
AND THE REST OF YOUR GANG?

SOME OF THEM WILL DO IT FOR THE SPORT. SOME OF THEM WILL DO IT FOR THE CHANCE AT ANY KIND OF REVENGE...
BUT I AM GOING TO HAVE TO OFFER THEM SOMETHING.
YOU TELL THEM THAT I WANT TO USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE THUNDERBOLTS PROGRAM AND ELEVATE IT FROM BLACK OPS TO THE DRIVING FORCE OF THIS COUNTRY'S PARAMILITARY FORCE.
I WANT THE THUNDERBOLTS TO REPLACE THE AVENGERS FRANCHISE.
AND I WANT YOU TO RUN IT AND I WANT THEM TO BE YOUR GENERALS. AND WITH THAT COMES...
SPECIAL FORCES IMMUNITY.
IS THAT WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE?
IT'S A GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE CARD.
AND THAT'S A REAL THING?
NICK FURY INVENTED IT.
WHY?
TO KEEP HIMSELF OUT OF JAIL.
I GAVE IT TO MYSELF THE DAY I TOOK THIS JOB.
I'M OFFERING YOU MY OLD JOB, AND IT WORKED OUT PRETTY GOOD FOR ME.
THAT I CAN SELL.

LATER.
AND IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT...
YOU GET IN LINE TO BE PART OF HIS THUNDERBOLTS.
YEAH...?
AND WHO THE HELL WANTS THAT?
LET HIM TALK.
I THOUGHT WE GOT INTO THIS TO MAKE SOME MONEY. WHAT'S WITH ALL THE--
SO, FIRST YOU GOT US HUNTING AVENGERS ALL OVER THE CITY...
OH, AND BRAVO TO ALL OF YOU ON A JOB WELL DONE THERE.
AND I'M BEING SARCASTIC, IF YOU CAN'T TELL.
HEY, I WAS REALLY CLOSE. CAGE SUCKER-PUNCHED ME.
FORGET THAT NOW. FORGET ALL OF THAT!
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, GO. OUT YA GO.
THIS IS THE GIG.
BUT...ANY OF YOU WANT A GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE CARD. A FUTURE. A CAREER...YOU DO THIS.
AND THE GIG IS, I REMIND YOU, SOMETHING YOU ALL WANTED TO DO ANYHOW, EXCEPT NOW YOU'RE GETTING PAID FOR IT.
AND GOD FORBID, A CHANCE AT A FUTURE.
SO WHAT IS IT? IN OR OUT?
OUT.

WOW, MANDRILL... THAT SPIDER-BROAD REALLY DID A NUMBER ON YOU.
IT'S A LOSE-LOSE. DON'T YOU SEE?
OSBORN'S USING US FOR CANNON FODDER. HE DOESN'T CARE IF WE LIVE OR DIE.
HE'S OFFERING US THIS BECAUSE HE DOESN'T EXPECT US TO MAKE IT OUT.
AND WHO'S TO SAY HE KEEPS HIS WORD?
BECAUSE SO FAR HE HAS.
I'M OUT.
THEN IF YOU'RE OUT, YOU'RE OUT COMPLETELY.
THAT MEANS NO MORE CASH FLOW. AND THAT MEANS NO MORE POWER UPGRADE.
NOOO!
WHOA!

=RR-HUAGH=
WHOA.
OUT MEANS OUT.
AND YOU'RE OUT.
SO... GET OUT!
THE MADAME HAS SPOKEN.
OKAY, OKAY. I'M SORRY, I'M IN.
PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME.
PLEASE DON'T.
WITH POWER LIKE THIS COME RESPONSIBILITIES.
OKAY, OKAY...
WELL, THIS WAS AN INTENSE LITTLE SESSION.
SO WHAT NOW?
WE SIT AROUND AND EAT PIZZA AND WAIT FOR OSBORN TO CALL?
IS THERE EVEN A PLAN?
OH, THERE'S A PLAN...

INCOMING!

SKA BOOM SKA BOOM

SKA BOOM SKA BOOM

SKA BOOM

SKA BOOM SKA BOOM SKA BOOM

I'M GOING FOR HIGHER GROUND!

GO!

YOU'LL MISS ME THOUGH, RIGHT?

ALREADY DO.

CAP, THIS IS FURY. I GOT A LOCKED TARGET.

I'M TAKING THE SHOT.

SKA BOOM

BAM

AAGHH!

I'M HIT.

COME ON...

RRRUUUMMBBBLEEEE
OH @#$@#$!
AAGGH!
WHOA!
HEADS UP!
ODIN'S EYE!
BOOM
WHITNEY!

GKA BOOM GKA BOOM

WHITNEY!

BOBBI?!

WHITNEY!

GKA BOOM GKA BOOM

BOBBI!

WHITNEY!

OH, NO...

AAGSH!
OH MY GOD!
ARE YOU OKAY?
KA-BOOM
WHITNEY?!
WHITNEY...
NNN!
YOU'RE OKAY!
IT'S OKAY.
NOT EVEN A LITTLE TINY BIT.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE.
LET'S HELP THESE PEOPLE.
ABSOLUTELY.
LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
RIGHT NOW.
OH NO.
WHAT IS THAT NOW?
I THINK IT'S THE SENTRY.

OH, NO...
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

PLEASE, FATHER...

WHAT'S GOING ON, MAN?
HOOD?! YOU DUMB SON OF A--!
I CAN'T BELIEVE LOKI DID THIS!
HE-HE-HE TOOK OUR POWER AWAY AND GAVE IT TO THEM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
LISTEN TO ME, PARKER. IT'S TIME WE GO. WE GO NOW.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--?
BAM.
BAM
LET'S GO. QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

THIS IS FOUR-NINER-NINER, WE HAVE A GROUND SITUATION. AWAITING ORDERS!
I REPEAT, THIS IS--
BAM
BAM
VVRROOMMMMMMMM

HAS THE TRUE FACE OF NORMAN OSBORN BEEN REVEALED?
THAT IS WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS CLAIMING.
IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS EVENING, THE PRESIDENT DENOUNCED OSBORN'S ACTIONS AND PRAISED THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HIS ASSEMBLED AVENGERS.
RD HAS FALLEN, OSBORN IS UNDER ARREST, CAPTAIN AMERICA IS

DETAILS ON EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED IN OKLAHOMA AND WHO WAS INVOLVED ARE STILL COMING IN.
OH MY GOD.
WE GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY. TONIGHT.

YOU THINK THAT WILL *STOP THEM?*
YOU THINK CAPTAIN AMERICA'S GOING TO JUST LET US OFF THE HOOK BECAUSE WE SNUCK INTO *MEXICO?*
WE'RE AT THE END OF THE LINE, WHITNEY.
THEY ARE GOING TO INTERROGATE THE WRECKING CREW AND THE U-FOES AND ALL FINGERS WILL BE POINTING RIGHT TO MY FOREHEAD.
ALL OF THEM.

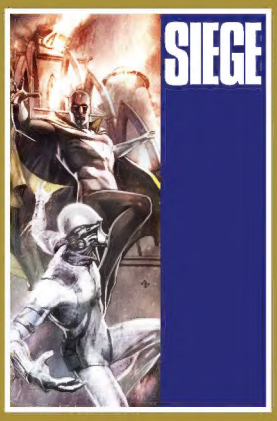
THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS, PARKER...

SO YOU'RE GOING TO *LAY DOWN AND DIE?!*
SLAP

IT IS WHAT IT IS.
YOU DON'T LIKE THE ODDS? YOU CHANGE THEM!
YOU'RE RIGHT. THE AVENGERS ARE COMING FOR YOU.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS!
SO WHEN THEY COME FOR US... YOU MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY.
YOU MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THEY WOULD NEVER SEE COMING.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

NEW AVENGERS: FINALE
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE HOOD?



THUNDERBOLTS #143
UPHEAVAL IN THE RANKS!

AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #35
TAKING A STAND!

THE THANOS IMPERATIVE: IGNITION
NUFF SAID!

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